

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08  
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06  
LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-02  
PRS-01 FEA-01 AGRE-00 OES-06 /119 W  
-----200302Z 012595 /70

R 191755Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
PANCANAL  
USSOUTHCOM

UNCLAS PANAMA 2775

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EEWT, EFIN, EIND, ETRD

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN PANAMA AND LIBYA

SUMMARY: THE PANAMANIAN PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING POSSI-  
BILITIES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND INVOLVING  
FINANCE, SUGAR, BANANAS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ETC.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO A TRIPOLI INTERVIEW REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PANAMA  
PRESS, FERNANDO MANFREDO, PANAMANIAN MINISTER OF THE PRESI-  
DENCY, SAID THAT THE PANAMANIAN AND LIBYANS WERE HAVING  
GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND THAT A BI-  
LATERAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP TO DECIDE ON SPECIFIC  
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AREAS AND TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION. MANFREDO, CHAIRMAN  
OF THE JOINT PANAMANIAN-LIBYAN WORKING GROUP ON ECONOMIC  
MATTERS, WENT ON TO SAY THAT LIKELY AREAS INCLUDED MINING,  
FORESTRY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES, AND ADDED THAT LIBYA  
MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FINANCING A HOUSING PROJECT IN  
PANAMA.

2. MANFREDO ALSO SPOKE OF PROPOSALS BETWEEN PANAMA'S PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE LIBYAN PRIVATE SECTOR, WHICH COULD LEAD TO PRIVATE PROJECTS, OR MIXED PROJECTS INCLUDING, CITING AS AN EXAMPLE A PROPOSAL OF JOSE AMADO (PRESIDENT OF THE SINDICATO PANAMENO DE INDUSTRIAS-SIP) TO INSTALL IN LIBYA A PLANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ALUMINUM GAS BOTTLES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE INVESTMENT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND THE SERVICES OF A DOZEN PANAMANIAN TECHNICIANS IN LIBYA.

3. MANFREDO SAID PANAMA WOULD DESCRIBE TO THE LIBYANS THE POSSIBILITIES WHICH PANAMA OFFERS AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTER.

4. THE PRESS REPORT OF INTERVIEW ALSO SAID THAT GEN. TORRIJOS WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS STUDIED THE POSSIBLE LOCATION IN PANAMA OF A NEW OIL PIPELINE WHICH WOULD HAVE TERMINAL FACILITIES ALLOWING DIRECT LOADING AND UNLOADING FROM SHIPS. PUERTO ARMUELLES IN CHIRIQUI PROVINCE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION.

5. AS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN THE SALE OF BANANAS TO LIBYA FOR RESALE TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD, THE REPORT STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HANDLING THE FRUIT, SUCH AS THE SPECIAL MATURING ROOMS. HOWEVER, PANAMA'S IDEA IS THAT LIBYA SHOULD CONSTRUCT THE NECESSARY INSTALLATIONS AND BUY BANANAS FROM UPEB UNION OF BANANA-EXPORTING UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES) AND SERVE AS A "BRIDGE" FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. ANOTHER PRESS REPORT SAYS THAT LIBYA HAS OFFERED TO BUY 60,000 TONS OF SUGAR FROM PANAMA WITH PRICE TO BE DETERMINED WHEN A LIBYAN DELEGATION VISITS PANAMA ON A DATE SOON TO BE DECIDED.

7. NO TEXTS OF ANY FORMAL, SIGNED AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PANAMA AND LIBYA HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY SUCH TEXTS. FOREGOING INFORMATION IS BASED ON PRESS REPORTS ONLY.  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** POSSIBLE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN PANAMA AND LIBYA SUMMARY: THE PANAMANIAN PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND  
**TAGS:** ECIN, EEW, EFIN, EIND, ETRD, SOPN, LY, PN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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